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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/696,584

10/30/2003

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EXAMINER

YOO, JASSON H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,584

Applicant(s)

NAGANO, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Jasson H. Yoo

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

It does not state that the person making the oath or declaration acknowledges the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

The correct statement should read, "I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations Section 1.56."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 recites the limitation of, "a bill stacker provided in the cabinet and housing bills validated by the bill validator". It is not clear if the limitation refers to the bill stacker houses the bill validated by the bill validator, or if the bill validator validates the housing for the bills. For examination purposes, the claim will be read as, the bill stacker housing the bills that have been validated by the bill validator.

Claim 12, recites the limitation of, "a diameter of a coin utilizable with the gaming machine". The claim does not define how the coin is utilizable with the gaming

machine, nor define the diameter of the coin. The claim will be examined based on the Examiner's best understanding of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11, 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watabe (US 5,505,289) in view of Spring (US 4,230,213).

Claims 1, 14. Watabe discloses a gaming machine capable of accepting bills (vending machine, a money exchanger or money service device, col. 1:6-17), the gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet (housing 11, col. 3:18-24, Figs. 1-3);

a door provided on the front face of the cabinet (machine has a front door 5, to access the bill processor, col. 1:26-29) ;

a bill insertion slot provided on the door (bill inlet 16, col. 3:25-27, Figs. 2-6);

a bill guide plate provided on the door and extending forward from a lower end of the bill insertion slot for guiding a bill into the bill insertion slot (bill guide panel 15 has a bill guide plate located at a lower end of the bill insertion slot for guiding the bill, Figs. 2,5), wherein the bill guide plate has an opening for dropping foreign matter separated

from the bill (bill guide opening 16 is carried through opening 65, which separates the foreign matter, Fig. 5, col. 4:58-61);

a guide part (liquid collector 50 in Figs. 3, 5, col. 4:36-38) positioned under the opening of the bill guide plate for guiding the foreign matter dropped from said opening downwards (guiding the foreign matter in the path of B shown in Fig. 5, col. 4:58-65).

Watabe significantly discloses the claimed invention as discussed above, but fails to specifically teach a container below the guide part for collecting the foreign matter. In an analogous art to separating foreign matter from money entering a machine, Spring discloses a container (Spring, trough 25 in Fig. 2, col. 2:47-53) for storing foreign matter that has been separated from the money. Spring discloses foreign matter is guided down the guide part (Spring, walls 17 and apron 20 form a guide part) and stored in a container (Spring, 25 in Fig. 2) below the guide part. Furthermore, Watabe discloses the guide part that guides the foreign matter is located within the gaming machine disposed at a rear face of the door (Watabe, Figs. 1, 3, 5). The foreign matter is discharges out of the guide part and below of the guide part by an arrow C in Fig. 5 (Watabe, col. 4:58-65). Watabe machine is used to prevent foreign matter such as liquid from entering the bill processor (Watabe, col. 2:8-39). Thus providing a container vertically below the guide part would collect and store the liquid that has been discharged by the guide part (Watabe, as indicated by the arrow C in Fig. 5). The container would prevent the collected liquid from entering the bill processor and other parts of the gaming machine. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watabe's gaming

machine and incorporate a container disposed at a rear face of the door and below the guide part, in order to collect and store the foreign matter, and prevent the foreign matter from entering the bill processor and other parts of the gaming machine.

Claims 2, 16. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the gaming machine an upper opening of the container is positioned substantially vertically below the guide part (as noted above) and has a larger cross-sectional area than a lower end part of the guide part (Spring, Fig. 2).

Claims 3, 11, 17. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the container is detachably mounted to the rear face of the door (It is inherent for the container to be detachable from the rear face of the door. The container is used to collect the foreign matter. The container is removed, when the gaming operator empties the container.).

Claim 4. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the container has a rectangular horizontal cross-section, and one of long sides of the rectangular cross-section faces the rear face of the door when the container is mounted to the door (Spring, 25 in Fig. 2).

Claim 5. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the claimed invention as discussed above, but fails to specifically teach the container is formed of a substantially transparent or semi-transparent material. Nevertheless, having the container made

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from transparent or semi-transparent material is an obvious design change. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the container collects foreign matter such as liquid. Having a transparent or semi-transparent container will provide a visual indication to tell the operator when the container is filled, and what is inside the container. This commonly practiced for liquid holding containers (i.e. water bottles, milk cartons, soda bottles, etc.). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watabe in view of Spring's gaming machine and have the container substantially transparent or semi-transparent material in order to provide a visual indication.

Claim 6. Watabe in view of Spring discloses gaming machine that separates foreign matter from a bill and collects the foreign matter in a container as discussed above, but fails to specifically teach the container is one liter or less. However, the specific size of the container is a design change and does not functionally alter the gaming machine that separates the foreign matter from a bill and collects the foreign matter as discussed above. The size of the container may vary depending on the amount of space the gaming machine has for the container. Furthermore, bills are not substantially absorbent material, and cannot carry a large amount of foreign matter such as liquid at a time. Thus it is not efficient to put a very large container within a gaming machine that would take up a large amount of space within the container, when the container collects only a small amount of foreign matter. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art a the time the invention was made to modify

Watabe in view of Spring's gaming machine, and have the container's storage capacity to one liter or less, in order to provide an efficient container size for the gaming machine.

Claim 7. Watabe in view of Spring discloses a bill validator (Watabe, cols. 4:1-3, 4:19-33).

Claim 8. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the bill validator is configured to validate the authenticity and quality of the bill guided by the bill guide plate (Watabe, cols. 4:1-3, 4:19-33).

Claim 9. Watabe in view of Spring discloses a bill stacker housing the bills that have been validated by the bill validator (Watabe, col. 4:33-35).

Claims 10, 18. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the container is detachably mounted to the rear face of the door as discussed above, but fails to teach the gaming machine further comprises two latches are provided on the rear surfaces of the door; and two pins for detachably engaging the latches protruding from two side faces of the container. Nevertheless, the specific method of attaching the container to the door is a design choice. Watabe discloses gaming machine parts are detachable by latches and pins (Watabe, col. 5:46-7:17). The latches allow the parts to be removed from the gaming machine, for maintenance purposes. When an individual part malfunctions, the

gaming machine can be easily fixed by replacing the individual malfunctioned part by simply unfastening the latches from the pins (Watabe, col. 6:7-31, Figs. 9-10). By using the latches and pins to detachably mount the container onto the door, the gaming operator can easily remove the container from the door by disengaging the latches from the pins. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watabe in view of Spring's gaming machine and have the container mounted to the rear face of the door using latches and pins, in easily remove and attach the container from the door using fastening mechanisms within the gaming machine.

Claim 12. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the opening of the bill guide plate is smaller than a diameter of a coin utilizable with the gaming machine, thereby preventing such coin from falling through the opening and the guide part to the container (Watabe discloses the bill guide plate accepts one bill at a time through slot 16. The width of a paper bill is smaller than a width of a nickel. It is implied that width of the bill slot 16, is smaller than the width of a nickel, to accept only one paper bill at a time. If a coin such as nickel is prevented from entering the bill slot, then it is prevented from falling to the guide part and into the container.).

Claim 15. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the guide part is fixed immovably to the door (Watabe, Figs. 1, 3, 5).

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watabe (US 5,505,289) in view of Spring (US 4,230,213) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Parish (US 5,156,250).

13. Watabe in view of Spring discloses the claimed invention as discussed above, but fails to specifically the gaming machine comprises a coin slot in the door. In an analogous art to gaming machine that separates foreign matter from a bill within the machine, Parish discloses a coin slot in the door (30 in Fig. 1) that is different from the bill insertion slot (10 in Fig. 1). Providing a coin slot to a gaming machine, will allow the gaming machine to accept paper money can coin money. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Watabe in view of Spring's gaming device, and further incorporate Parish's coin slot, in order to allow the gaming machine to accept coin money.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

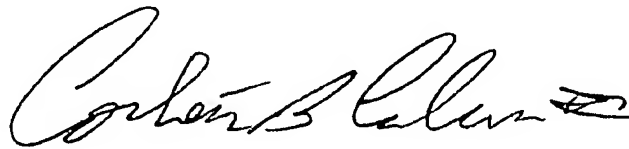
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson H. Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571)272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY



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